CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cochran called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. A moment of silence was observed, and The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Roll Call was taken by Mr. Fazekas.

CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Martin made a MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda as follows, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Castranio:

Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2019 Stormwater Authority Meeting
Approval of Administrative Payments in the Amount of $37,457.64
Consideration/Approval of Staff Reports

The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE 2020 VEHICLE

The proposed 2020 Authority budget includes $60,000 for the purchase of a flatbed truck for the Stormwater Authority for use in related general operating activities and stormwater construction projects. Staff received pricing from Whitmoyer Ford and Stephenson Equipment, Inc. for a piggyback purchase of a 2020 Ford F550, equipped with an aluminum flatbed and 10’ plow, through the State COSTARS program at a cost of $52,501. Mr. Fazekas said staff would like to purchase this equipment at this time to ensure late January/early February delivery and to take advantage of current manufacturer discounts that will expire at the end of November. Payment would not be expected until delivery in 2020.
Commissioner Rigney made a **MOTION** to authorize the purchase of a 2020 Ford F550, equipped with an aluminum flatbed and 10’ plow from Whitmoyer Ford and Stephenson Equipment, Inc. under the COSTARS agreement for a cost not to exceed $52,501. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Martin. The motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION OF STORMWATER CREDIT PROGRAM, AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PROGRAM**

Mrs. Boyer provided the final draft version of the Stormwater Credit Program manual and proposed resolution. She noted that a similar version was presented in September, and since then the manual has been cleaned up to make it easier for residents to apply for credits. Staff also addressed comments brought up by the Authority and residents. She said 95% of the manual remains the same as what was presented in September. Time limits were removed, and the credit would expire with a new landowner, who would have the option to apply for a credit. She said we are also requiring the landowner who wants a credit to be current on their stormwater and sewer fees, and we added an innovation credit. There is also now a catch-all for someone who might have a unique circumstance on their property that doesn’t fit into the other categories, or for someone who might come up with something new. She said the changes are mostly to make the manual more user friendly. She said we added pictures and descriptions to simplify the process, while still allowing us to get the information we need. She said it has been posted on the website since November 14. Mr. Reichard commented that the credit packet relies on the staff to do a lot of the calculations in-house rather than it being on the homeowner as before, based on a comment by Commissioner Rigney at a previous meeting. He said it gives enough information that the homeowner can read and learn. He said we really just expect them to do a sketch of the property, and based on the information in the guide, pick a BMP. At that point, he said we understand what the homeowner is interested in and what the property looks like.

Chairman Cochran said he is little concerned that the information has only been up on our website for a week and suggested that maybe we should not take action on it until the next meeting. He said he thinks the delay in completing it was a good delay because it allowed staff to fine tune it. He said he doesn’t want anyone to feel that we are running it through too quickly. Commissioner Martin said we’ve had a lot of citizens attend and he suggested that we contact them to let them know it will be considered in December so we can be as transparent as possible. Commissioner Rigney said it was a great job and really captures everything the Authority could have hoped for. Vice Chairman Castranio questioned whether we will still allow a riparian buffer next to a stream on a property that doesn’t quite meet DEP specs. Mr. Reichard said we will, and that will be part of the review process. He said if we think there is a valid effort there we will take it into consideration.

Consensus was to keep the information on our website and reconsider the resolution at the December 18 Authority meeting.

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS’ COMMENT**

There were no comments.
MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kent Strock, of 729 Williams Grove Road, questioned whether we have a Township baseline on the Conodoguinet and Yellow Breeches Creeks as relates to levels of nitrogen and phosphorus currently running through them. Mr. Reichard said he doesn’t personally have it but thinks DEP probably has it. Mr. Strock commented that DEPs numbers may be way off and we could be putting together a program here based on numbers that are wrong. He said both creeks may be in better shape than DEP is telling us and if we have our own baseline, we can tell them what is happening. If we have a baseline, he said if we are supposed to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus by X number, then we will know if we exceed them, and if we do, then some of these BMPs may be null and void because we really don’t need them to meet DEP mandates. He said residents would be glad to monitor their wells for nitrogen levels, and if you pinpoint certain wells with a problem, it could help. Chairman Cochran asked Mr. Reichard if we know how DEP takes their readings. Mr. Reichard said he could get the information without a lot of research and could come back and report it and let us know what it would cost us to establish a baseline. He said he thinks it is a reasonable request commenting that maybe we just blend in with other areas. Commissioner Rigney said DEP/EPA want to measure TMDLs but wondered how we segment our contribution to lowering it when someone upstream could be skewing our numbers here. Mr. Strock said if we had the information for our area then we would have some ammunition to dispute DEP’s numbers. Vice Chairman Castranio commented that we might have to come up with more money once we know the findings. But Mr. Strock said if EPA/DEP mandates don’t work, we don’t have much recourse if we don’t do our own due diligence.

Mr. Strock next questioned whether we know what “clean” is. He asked if there is a point where EPA says nitrogen and phosphorus are now thus and so at the Bay, and everyone has done a wonderful job. Chairman Cochran said he has asked the same question. Mr. Strock said if we don’t know what “clean” is, then we are shooting at a moving target. Chairman Cochran said he raised the question at a town hall meeting that Scott Perry put on, and the question was scheduled for a vote and someone objected to it and it was pulled. He said he doesn’t know how we get there if the people managing it don’t want us to know. Commissioner Rigney said someone was asked several times how they arrived at the numbers and was told it is proprietary and they would tell us when we get there.

Chairman Cochran said he shares Mr. Strock’s pain on some of the philosophical issues. Commissioner Martin suggested that there might be an environmental class at Messiah College that might be interested in doing some sampling.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rigney made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m., SECONDED by Commissioner Martin. The motion carried unanimously.